

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (currently amended): A levelling wheel for use in direct sowing and fitted to a furrow-opener disk for opening a furrow in the ground, the levelling wheel having a semipneumatic treading band for treading and copying soil to determine a sowing depth, the treading band having a side area next to the furrow-opener disk, said side area having substantially a depression forming an alveolus between the furrow-opener disk and the surface of the treading band of the levelling wheel that touches the soil, said depression adapted to receive soil pushed aside by the furrow-opener disk, wherein said depression or alveolus extends between one- and two-thirds of a width of said treading band of the levelling wheel, the depression having a depth and a width, the depth being about equal to the width of the depression.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The levelling wheel of claim 17, wherein said depression or alveolus is dimensioned in accordance with the soil pushed aside by the furrow-opener disk.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The levelling wheel of claim 17, wherein said depression is dimensioned such that the cross-section of said alveolus is about 30% greater than the cross-section of the soil pushed aside by the furrow-opener disk.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The levelling wheel of claim 17, wherein said treading band has a profile in a form of a substantially cylindrical surface for treading on the

soil and which progressively flattens off into a surface spanning the alveolus adjacent said furrow-opener disk.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The levelling wheel of claim 20, wherein said profile of the treading band generally follows a sine-wave shape terminating in a cleaning tab that leans against the furrow-opener disk on assembly.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The levelling wheel of claim 20, wherein said treading band has inner bearing chords.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The levelling wheel of claim 22, wherein said chords include at least one chord directed between said surface for treading and said surface spanning the alveolus.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The levelling wheel of claim 17, wherein said treading band is substantially resilient to prevent wet soil adhering thereto and for absorbing terrain unevenness.

Claims 25-30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (new): The levelling wheel of claim 17, wherein the depth of the depression is within 25% of the width of the depression.